

Arlington Historical Commission
Minutes for the Meeting of
1 November 2022
Remote Participation Meeting, 7:30pm

1. Call to Order: Commissioners Pamela Meister, Eric Stange, Dianne Schaefer, JoAnn Robinson, and Michael Gervais.
2. Review of protocols for remote meetings and hearings.
3. Review of minutes. The minutes from October 6, 2022 were reviewed and approved with an amendment.
4. Discussions and Hearings:

7:40pm Formal Hearing for 55 Falmouth Road. Homeowners: Cyril and Sophie Perducet presented with Nathaniel Freedman with Anderson Corporation. The address of this house was previously on Old Mystic.

Plans: Window and door replacement. Pictured numbered windows to be replaced were shared with the Commissioners. Windows 201-214 are not original to the house. The plan is to replace the current 6 over 6 windows with 3 over one to match the window replacements from 2016. The four doors to replaced are on the back and front of the house and above the garage.

It was difficult to determine what windows are original to the house from the pictures. A plan was made to meet and walk the property to inventory the windows and locate the dominant windows and to evaluate the best way to restore the windows they are proposing.

This hearing will be continued on December 6, 2022.

8:10pm Menotomy Rocks Park. Presenters: Peter Howard, Judy Weinberg and Phil Lasker.

Commissioner Robinson shared information about what occurred. Two 10 foot benches in a style from the 1930s, that have been repaired and maintained consistently for many years, were removed by the Parks and Recreation Department in order to replace with accessible benches on pads of concrete with a space for a wheelchair. They were removed without the consideration of the history of the park or of how the benches have been maintained over the years. Menotomy Rocks Park has been on the Inventory of the Historical Commission since 1980. Commissioner Robinson, Joe Connelly, Judy Weinberg and Maryanne Foskett went on a walk through the Park and pointed out aspects of the park that are considered historic. Mass Historic will receive a copy of a more fully researched Inventory form of the Menotomy Rocks Park upon approval to replace the old form. Peter Howard and Commissioner Robinson presented at a Parks and Recreation Department meeting to discuss this issue. Doug Heim, our town counsel, confirmed that the Commission has a responsibility to provide guidance to the Parks and Recreation

Department or the Town when changes are proposed. Tim Rose, new Coordinator for Disabilities, was also contacted regarding this issue.

Peter Howard, hired by the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park to maintain the benches, shared his presentation that he had given to the Parks and Recreation Department. The two original benches of concern are located on the North side of Hills Pond. He shared pictures and slides about this situation. In conclusion Peter Howard made these recommendations:

1. Preserve the historic fabric of the Park
2. Destroy no more original benches
3. Replace the two benches that were destroyed
 - a. Duplicate the original design locally
 - b. Rough cost estimate \$2600 each
4. Similar benches are available for \$2067
 - a. May be customized for \$2510
 - b. Plus, assembly, shipping, installation

Commissioners commented on the removal of the benches and agreed that the benches should be replaced and appreciate the work of Peter Howard.

Judy Weinberg, Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park and Phil Lasker, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, also made comments.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Stange and seconded by Commissioner Meister that we strongly recommend that the two benches that have been removed are restored with benches in the style of the original benches from the 1930s. An amendment was made by Commissioner Meister that we work with the Parks and Recreation Department and the other interested parties that new installations will be compatible with the structures at Menotomy Rocks Park.

5. Review of Projects:

106 Bartlett Street: Request from the owner to look at the lattice work under the porch. It looks more authentic to what the house was previously. The monitors approved the design.

89 Oakland: The monitor will talk with the owner about the trim.

65-71 Beacon Street: The new drawings should be shared and will be attached to the decision.

6. New Business:

Commissioner Robinson shared information regarding 1021-25 Massachusetts Avenue at a Zoning Board Meeting.

CPA and Mass Historic Grant requests. We may want to go to Mass Historic and ask for a grant to do surveys of the Arlington's historic parks in a way that is a cultural landscape report. We could also update our Inventory and we could apply for this type of grant. Studies and research grants are preferred by Mass Historic.

Schedule a Joint Meeting with the Arlington Historical Commission and the Arlington Historic District Commission in January or February.

The Arlington Historical Commission adjourned at 9:30 pm.
The next Arlington Historical Commission meeting will be December 6, 2022.
for the Arlington Historical Commission, Victoria Rose, Recording Secretary.